Airport projects in Andhra Pradesh

176. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned any new airport project in the States especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details and present status thereof;

(c) whether Government are upgrading the airports in A.P. like Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry and Gannavaram;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) by when such upgradation will take place; and

(f) by when the new airport in Hyderabad will become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) A new Green field airport is coming up at Hyderabad. No new airport project has, thereafter, been sanctioned in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The details of airport upgradation projects in Andhra Pradesh are as under:

Visakhapatnam airport — The new runway with associated pavement and facilities has been constructed and commissioned on 15.6.2007 for operation of wide bodied aircrafts. The new integrated terminal building for handling 300 international and 400 domestic passengers at a time is under construction and is expected to be completed by February, 2008.

Gannavaram (Vijayawada) and Rajahmundry — A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) for upgradation of Vijayawada and Rajamundry airports. Master Plans have been forwarded to GoAP for providing additional land required for extension of runways and construction of new terminal buildings. GoAP has to transfer the required land free of cost and free from all encumberances to AAI. The upgradation works will be taken up by AAI after the required land is handed over by GoAP.

(f) The new international airport at Shamshabad near Hyderabad is likely to be comissioned in March, 2008.

Setting up of new airport in Sikkim

177. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the cities and places in the country where new airports are likely to be set up during the current year;

(b) whether any time schedule for setting up airport in Sikkim has been chalked out by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?